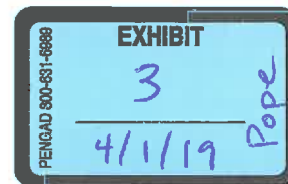


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:

1. Name:

Mrs. Courtney Clyburn Pope

Name that you are known by if different from above  
(Example: A Nickname):

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.  
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.) No.

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: 135 Laurens Street, Aiken SC 29801

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]  
(office): 803-642-7658  
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1979  
Place of Birth: Aiken, South Carolina  
Social Security Number: [REDACTED]

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? yes  
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? yes

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: SCDL [REDACTED]  
Voter Registration Number: [REDACTED]

5. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD214 concerning your discharge.

Not Applicable

6. Family Status: In the space below, (a) state whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated; (b) if married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name; (c) if you have ever been divorced or are in the process of obtaining a divorce, state the date, name of the moving party, court, and grounds; and (d) state the

names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.

Family Status: Married on November 24, 2007 to George Washington Pope, III.  
Never Divorced, two children.

[REDACTED]

7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
  - (a) University of South Carolina, Columbia, August 1997- May 2001, Journalism and Mass Communications
  - (b) University of South Carolina School of Law, August 2004-May 2007, Juris Doctorate
8. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at law school. Give the years you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
  - (a) John Belton O'Neal Inn of Courts 2006-2007
  - (b) Black Law Students' Association: President 2006-2007
  - (c) Black Law Students' Association: Member 2004-2007
  - (d) Academic Assistance Program Director 2006-2007
  - (e) Academic Assistance Tutor, Civil Procedure 2005-2006
  - (f) Student Bar Association Representative 2004-2007
  - (g) USC School of Law Peer Mentor 2005-2006
  - (h) SBA Minority Recruitment Committee (Chairman) 2005-2007
  - (i) Law Advocates 2006-2007
  - (j) SBA Student/Faculty Selection Committee 2006-2007
9. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. Please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.
  - (a) South Carolina, November 13, 2007, Bar taken one time.
10. Describe chronologically, since graduation from law school, your legal experience. Please include a list of all positions held in which you worked in a legal capacity. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years. Please also describe the extent to which you were involved with the administrative and financial management of each of these entities, including management of trust accounts.

(a) From August 2007 to December of 2009, I was employed as a Workers Compensation Associate at McAngus, Goudelock, and Courie LLC.

(b) From January 2010 to March 2016, I was in private practice at my law firm Clyburn Pope & Price, LLC , where I was the managing partner. My primary area of practice was family law, and criminal defense. Additionally, I managed all aspects of the law practice to include financial management, hiring of personnel, and management of client trust accounts. I shared these duties in equal parts with my then law partner, Jason M. Price.

(c) From March 2016 to the present time, I have been employed by the City of Aiken as the City Solicitor and the City of Aiken Staff Attorney. I prosecute all Municipal level charges. Additionally in my role as Staff Attorney, I review and negotiate various contracts on behalf of the City, handle all FOIA requests, handle tax litigation on behalf of the City, as well as write Orders for various Boards.

**Justices/judges applying for re-election to their current position may omit Questions 11–17. If you are a full-time judge seeking a judgeship different than your current position, Questions 11-17 should be answered based on your experience *prior to serving on the bench*.**

11. Please answer the following:

- (a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Family Court Judge within the past five years.

Not Applicable

- (b) If you are a candidate for Circuit Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience in criminal matters, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Further, please provide a brief written description of your experience in civil matters, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the types of matters handled, issues involved, and procedural history. Please include information such as the primary areas in civil court in which you practice, whether you represent plaintiffs or defendants, or both. You may go back further than five years if you feel it would assist the Commission with its assessment of your experience. If you lack experience in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Circuit Court Judge, or how you would compensate for your lack of experience in this area.

Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Circuit Court Judge within the past five years.

To summarize my experience, I have had the opportunity in my career to practice criminal defense for several years in private practice as well as serve as a City Solicitor for the City of Aiken. During my years as a private practitioner, I handled a variety criminal cases in Circuit Court. For example, I represented clients charged with Safecracking, Attempted Murder, Breaking and Entering, etc. During that time I handled all cases from beginning to end, handling motions for bond, motions to be relieved, motions for reconsideration, preliminary hearings, and other various types of motions. I implemented research skills to further educate myself as well as my clients. I have not conducted a trial in Circuit Court, admittedly, my clients' charges were either dismissed or a plea negotiation resolved my Circuit Court cases. My trial experience was limited at that time to Municipal Court. For that reason, when the opportunity arose, I took the position as City Solicitor and Staff Attorney to gain further trial experience. My experience over the last few years has been very valuable. I have conducted various types of criminal trials as a City Solicitor. My experience in Civil Court has been very limited. All of my personal injury cases were settled. I believe that most attorneys my age have not had the chance that more seasoned attorneys were given to gain a vast amount of trial experience in either criminal or civil court as many cases to resolve before a trial. I have a vast love of the law. It is my belief that through study and the use of mentors that I would prove to be an individual qualified to serve as Circuit Court Judge. During my tenure as a City Prosecutor, my appearance time before a Circuit Court judge has been very limited, however, I appear daily before several Municipal Court judges as a part of my current job function. I also appear before the Master in Equity to handle tax issues for the city.

- (c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity or a Circuit Court Judge within the past five years.

Not Applicable

- (d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law or Circuit Court within the past five years.

Not Applicable

12. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?

- (a) federal: 0%  
(b) state: 100%

13. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?
- (a) civil: 15%
  - (b) criminal: 40%
  - (c) domestic: 35%
  - (d) other: 10%
14. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
- (a) jury: 5%
  - (b) non-jury: 95%

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel?

Sole Counsel

15. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.

I believe that every case I handle is significant and certainly important in its own right. While I understand that criminal cases are of public record, I am respectfully requesting that the names I provide are not published. Aiken is a very small municipality. I would like to spare both clients and victims of the mentioned cases embarrassment, if at all possible.

(a) State v. [REDACTED]. The case was significant to me because this client testified against his father in his Murder Trial. I prepped my client for trial, testimony and negotiated a plea agreement on his behalf. My client's father was later found guilty of Murder.

(b) State v. [REDACTED]: In my career, this case was significant because it was the first time I handled a safecracking case,

(c) State v. [REDACTED] was significant to me because this was my first DUI case that I tried in Magistrate Court.

(d) [REDACTED] is a defamation case that I filed on behalf of my client. The significance of this case is that it allowed me my first opportunity to litigate in civil court.

(e) [REDACTED] is a case that I served as guardian ad litem. Though I was not the lead in this case, this was a family case that was litigated over the course of several years. It was significant because the ward was suffering from an undiagnosed mental illness. This case was my first chance to see first hand the impact that mental illness has on family situations. I also greatly admired the Judge for her constant professionalism and insistence on treating all parties fairly.

16. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported.

(a) I have not handled any civil appeals.

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

17. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.

(a) I have not handled any criminal appeals.

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

18. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.

No.

19. If the answer to question 18 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.

(a) Not Applicable

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

20. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.

On November 13, 2007, I was admitted to practice in South Carolina State Courts.

21. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.

Although I have given many presentations and speeches to the Black Law Students Association, various k-12 schools, I have not taught law related courses or lectured at a bar association program.

22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.

Report is attached.

23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

I have not published books or articles.

24. Please furnish as a separate attachment, two examples of legal articles, briefs, orders, or other legal writings for which you can claim sole or primary authorship. If you cannot claim sole authorship, please explain the extent to which you are the primary author, to include a description of the other authors and their contributions. The writing samples are for the Commission's use only and will not be published. (If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable.)

25. What is your rating or membership status, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, Million Dollar Advocates Forum, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

I do not have a rating or membership status with any of the above organizations.

26. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.

(a) SC Bar Association

(b) Aiken County Bar Association

27. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty? If so, give details, including dates.

I have not held public office.

28. For sitting or former judges, list all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.

Not Applicable

29. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.

I have not been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office.

30. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.

From August 2001 to August 2004, I served as an Associate of the Public Relations Department at the South Carolina Education Lottery Commission. I planned and conducted various community service projects, public relations events, parties, and promotions. Additionally, I wrote and edited press releases and the Retailer Newletters.

31. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.

I am not involved in the management of any business enterprise.

32. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.

I have never been employed as a "lobbyist" as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14).

33. Provide, **as a separate attachment**, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:
- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
  - (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

(A net worth statement form is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement.)

**NOTE: The Commission may require written confirmation that financial obligations have been satisfied or that the parties have agreed upon a payment schedule.**

34. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, give details.

I have never filed for bankruptcy. I am not aware of defaulting on a student loan. In 2016, Wells Fargo instituted a collection for an outstanding credit card debt. The debt was paid and the suit was dismissed with prejudice in February of 2018. The credit card debt was attributed to medical bills for my special needs son.

35. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal involved.

No, since filing my letter of intent with the Commission, I have not accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal.

36. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. If you have spent over \$100, have you reported your expenditures to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?

To date, February 18, 2019, I have no expenditures made by myself or on my behalf in furtherance of my candidacy.

37. List the recipient and amount of all contributions made by you, a member of your immediate family, or by a business with whom you are associated, to members of the General Assembly within the past four years.

I have not, nor has a member of my immediate family, or a business with whom I am associated made contributions to members of the General Assembly.

38. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor, donor, and date of the solicitation.

I have not, not anyone acting on my behalf has solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of my candidacy.

39. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek or currently hold. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

I am not aware of any financial arrangements or business relationships that have could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest.

40. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:

- (a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency;
- (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more; or
- (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.

Not Applicable

List the interest you hold and the value and location of the property. Identify as applicable the:

- (a) nature of any potential conflict of interest;
- (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and
- (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property.

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

Not Applicable

41. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

Not Applicable

42. For sitting judges, if you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities or have held such an interest, list each stock you currently own or owned during the prior calendar year. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here.

Not Applicable

43. For sitting judges, have you ever accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant in a matter currently or previously before you or your court? If so, please give the details, including the name of the attorney or litigant and the thing of value you received.

Not Applicable

44. For sitting judges, have you used the services of your staff, for which you did not pay, while campaigning for this office?

Not Applicable

45. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? If so, give details but do not include traffic violations which are subject to a penalty of \$125 or less. You must include any and all arrests,

including, but not limited to, offenses for driving under the influence or similar traffic offenses. Include all arrests that resulted in expungement, which will be redacted. If you have questions regarding whether to include an offense, please contact the Commission.

[All answers have been received and considered by the Commission, and as noted above, any expunged matters are redacted from the record.]

46. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.

Not Applicable

47. Have you ever been sued by a client? Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.

Not Applicable

48. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.

Not Applicable

49. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been sanctioned or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or has any jurisdiction found that you committed any misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition. Include any and all confidential and public sanction, discipline, or finding of misconduct of any kind.

[Yes and no responses are redacted for all candidates unless there is a public discipline.]

50. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? If so, give the details.

I have never been investigated by the Department of Social Services.

**Note: The flash drive with your application materials contains (1) Section 2-19-70(c); (2) JMISC Rule 24, (3) Memo of Guidance, and (4) informal opinions and letters concerning pledging prohibitions, with which third parties acting on your behalf, as well as you, must comply.**

51. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened or have you been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your

screening? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? If so, give details.

I have not directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly. I have not been offered a conditional pledge of support pending the outcome of my screening or received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to my election.

52. Have you requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Describe the campaigning you have done for this election and include a list of those individuals you have asked to campaign on your behalf and, to the best of your knowledge, those who have campaigned for you on their own initiative.

I have not requested any third party to contact members of the General Assembly on my behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released.

53. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges until after the draft report becomes final, which occurs on the day and time specified on the Commission's published screening schedule?

I am familiar with the 48 hour rule.

54. Since submitting your letter of intent to become a candidate, have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted any member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? If so, give details.

I have not contacted nor has anyone acting on my behalf contacted a member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about my intention to become a candidate.

55. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons from whom you are providing references. Also, provide the Commission with **original letters** of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature (preferably in blue ink). **The Commission will not accept a photocopy or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation and failure to include all five (5) original letters of recommendation in your packet when you submit it will render your packet incomplete.** Please **do not** have references mail your reference letters to the Commission directly. *You must return the five (5) original letters of recommendation to the Commission with your application packet.*

(a) Natalie Armstrong Ham, [REDACTED]

(b) Carl Solomon, [REDACTED]

(c) Stephen K. Benjamin, [REDACTED]

(d) Rosemary English, [REDACTED]

(e) Gloria Neale Showers, [REDACTED]

56. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site or have you, to your knowledge, been featured or depicted on a social media or Internet site, such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.? If so, how would your use of social media or other similar types of Internet sites be affected if you were serving in a judicial capacity?

I have a Facebook Account for which I have not been active in approximately 3 years. I also have an Instagram username that I rarely use. If I were serving in a judicial capacity, I would not feature posts about my candidacy, my judicial service, cases, etc. As is the case now, my use is for personal reasons to keep in touch with far away family members, long distance friends, and old classmates. My use of such sites is not mandatory and could be stopped if deemed appropriate to do so as a member of the judiciary.

57. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.

(a) Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated

(b) Aiken Chapter of the Links, Incorporated: Recording Secretary and Christmas Gala Committee Chairwoman

(c) Cumberland A.M.E Church, YPDers youth leader (Young People's Department)

58. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek. This information may include how your life experiences have affected or influenced the kind or type of judge you have been or plan to be.

I believe that my parents influenced and guided me to always act in accordance to the highest standard of morality. I credit making decisions based on what I think is the right thing to do vs what outside influences insist I do to both my mother and father. I have several strong figures whom have served as mentors and role models to me in the legal community. Those figures have guided me down a path of encouragement and initiative.

Public service is something that I have always been a part of from a young child to the adult that I am now. My husband and I have always tried to instill tolerance, the importance of education, and the value in being a good ethical person to our children. My hope is that I will be given the opportunity to serve a Circuit Court Judge. I believe in forgiveness but I also strongly believe in accountability. The opportunity to serve as a part of the SC Judiciary is one that I would not take lightly. It is the chance to make a difference and an impact in my community.

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE  
CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR  
ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST  
OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Printed Name)  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_